

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

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DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /071 W
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R 231415Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7953

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USNATO 731

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 917

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, US, CZ

SUBJECT: V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS: PRESS TREATMENT OF US ROLE

REF: PRAGUE 656

1. WE HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY PUT OFF BY SLANDEROUS CZECH PRESS CAMPAIGN ABOUT US ROLE IN WORLD WAR II. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A GENERAL INSTRUCTION WENT OUT TO THE PRESS EARLY THIS YEAR OR LATE LAST YEAR SETTING GENERAL LINE: NOT ONLY DID US DO NOTHING USEFUL IN LIBERATING CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IT DID ALL THE HARM IT COULD BY WAY OF ATTEMPTING TO FORESTALL SOCIALISM HERE. THIS THEME HAS BEEN REPEATED OVER AND OVER MORE BLATANTLY AND POINTEDLY IN RECENT DAYS. CHARGE MENTIONED SOME OFFENSIVE ARTICLES TO ZANOTVSKY (HEAD SIXTH DEPARTMENT MFA) ON MARCH 26. SINCE THEN TWO PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE LONG ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED (BRICHTA ON APRIL 12, NOVAK ON APRIL 22, BOTH IN RUDE PRAVO), AS WELL AS SEVERAL SHORTER PIECES.

2. AT AIRPORT WELCOME FOR DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER APRIL 21,
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FONMIN CHNOUPEK MENTIONED 30TH ANNIVERSARY PLANS TO CHARGE

AND ASKED IF HE HAD SPOKEN WITH ZANTOVSKY RECENTLY. USING THIS AS PEG, WE ARE ASKING EARLY APPOINTMENT. ONE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WILL BE POSSIBLE EMBASSY RECEPTION ABOUT TIME OF V-E DAY. WITH ANTI-US PRESS CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY, IT SEEMS INCREASINGLY DOUBTFUL WHETHER RECEPTION WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. AS THE AMBASSADOR PUT IT, UNLESS CZECH ATTITUDE IS COOPERATIVE, IT MIGHT BE INADVISABLE TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR RECEPTION. (OUR OWN PLANS FOR WREATH-LAYING CEREMONIES ON MAY 7 ARE FIRM. HOWEVER, CZECHS STILL HAVE NOT TOLD US WHAT THEIR PLANS ARE TO PARTICIPATE, AND IN VIEW OF PRESS CAMPAIGN WE BELIEVE QUESTION SHOULD AT LEAST BE EXAMINED OF HOW MUCH CZECH PARTICIPATION IS DESIREABLE FROM US VIEWPOINT.)

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT MIGHT BE USEFUL AT THIS TIME TO EXPRESS OUR INDIGNATION OVER PRESS TREATMENT SOMEWHAT MORE VIGOROUSLY. CHARGE WILL CERTAINLY TAKE MATTER UP ORALLY WITH ZANTOVSKY, BUT WE WONDER IF IT WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE TO GO BEYOND THIS. DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER PUTTING THIS MATTER TO SPACIL, OR EMBASSY MIGHT HAND NOTE TO MFA HERE. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY ILLUSIONS THAT A PROTEST FROM US WILL DO A LOT OF GOOD. WE STILL BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE UGLINESS OF THE CZECH PRESS STATEMENTS MAKES IT INCUMBENT UPON US TO REGISTER OUR PROTEST IN SOME WAY. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT.
PERRY

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